



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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NEWS RELEASE:

Statement by Speaker Naize regarding meeting with Senators Kyl and McCain

The purpose of this statement is to clarify my position and the position of Council in relation to the meeting taking place at Quality Inn in Tuba City, Ariz. on April 5, 2012 at 11 am MST to 12 pm MST.

Firstly, the meeting is not organized nor was it requested by members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council. My staff placed a call to the office of Senator Jon Kyl in order to clarify the purpose of the meeting. Senator Kyl's staff instructed my staff to contact the Navajo Nation President's Office as they are the office who requested the meeting.

In the most recent memo sent by the Navajo Nation Washington Office, it indicates that the meeting is not open to members of the press and the general public. This is not the rule of Council. In fact, it is my preference that such important topics as water rights settlement and the former Bennett Freeze Area are discussed before the public.

Council will ask for an additional meeting with the Senators to take place in Window Rock, Ariz. so that matters are discussed in a public forum. I also want to assure the public that Council does not have an official position on the water rights settlement. When the time arrives, legislation will be introduced through the regular legislative process. We have not reached this point.

As Speaker, I want to assure the Navajo people that no decisions will be made and no deals agreed to by either me or Council at this meeting. All agreements that will be made by Council on water rights settlement will be done so with transparency in public sessions.